

THE REBEL MESSAGE.

THE DOCUMENT IN FULL.

What Jeff. Davis Says of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE REBELS.

State Authorities to Punish Union Officers Taken with Slaves in Their Possession.

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different Powers, and making arrangements for the... Prior, however, to the arrival abroad of these... the United States had commenced... hostilities against the confederacy by despatching a... secret expedition for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter... an express promise to the contrary, and with a... duplicity which had been fully unveiled in a former... They had also addressed communications to the... different Cabinets of Europe, in which they assumed the... attitude of being sovereign over this confederacy, al-... lying that these independent States were in rebellion... against the remaining States of the Union, and threat-... ening Europe with manifestations of their displeasure... if it should treat the Confederate States as having... an independent existence. It soon became known that... these communications were not intended abroad to be... as if they were known to be such, nor had they... yet learned what reliance was to be placed in the official... statements of the Cabinet at Washington. The delegation... of power granted by these States to the federal govern-... ment to represent them in foreign inter-... course had led Europe into the grave error of... supposing that their separate sovereignty and... independence had been merged into one common... sovereignty, and had ceased to have a distinct existence... Under the influence of this error, which all appeals to... reason and historical fact were vainly used to dispel... our commissioners were met by the declaration that... foreign governments could not assume to judge between... the conflicting representations of the two parties as to... the true nature of their present political relations. The... governments of Great Britain and France accordingly... signified their determination to confine themselves to re-... cognizing the self-evident fact of the existence of a war... and to maintaining a strict neutrality during its progress... Some of the other Powers of Europe pursued the same... course of policy, and it became apparent that by some... understanding, express or tacit, Europe had decided to... leave the initiative in all action touching the contest on... this continent to the two Powers just named, who were... recognized to have the largest interests involved both by... reason of proximity and of the extent and intimacy of... their commercial relations with the States engaged in war... It is manifest that the course of action adopted by Eu-... rope, while based on an apparent refusal to determine the... question, or to side with either party, was in point of... fact an actual decision against our rights and in favor of... the rebel cause. The attitude of the United States was... the good to trust us as an independent government. If... we were independent States, the refusal to entertain with... us the same international intercourse as was maintained... with our enemy was unjust and was injurious to its ef-... fectiveness. It was in accordance with the high moral obli-... gations that international code whose chief sanction is... the conscience of sovereigns and the public opinion of man-... kind that these eminent Powers should decline the per-... formance of a duty peculiarly incumbent on them from any... apprehension of the consequences to themselves. One... immediate and necessary result of their declining the... responsibility of a decision which must have been ad-... versely to the extrajudicial pretensions of the United States... was the prohibition of hostilities to which our enemies... were thereby encouraged, and which have resulted in... nothing but scenes of carnage and devastation on... this continent, and of misery and suffering on the other... such as have scarcely a parallel in history. Had these... Powers promptly admitted our right to be treated as an... equal independent nation, none can doubt that the moral... effect of such action would have been to dispel the delu-... sion under which the United States have persisted in their... efforts to accomplish our subjugation.

To the continued hesitation of the same Powers in... rendering this act of simple justice towards this... confederacy is still due the continuance of the calamities... which mankind suffers from the intervention of its... peaceful pursuits both in the Old and the New World... These are matters in which less than justice has been... rendered to this people by neutral Europe, and... undue advantage effected on the aggressors in a wicked... war. At the inception of hostilities the inhabitants of... the confederacy were almost exclusively agricul-... turalists; those of the United States, to a great... extent, mechanics and merchants. We had no... commercial marine, while their merchant vessels covered... the ocean. We were without a navy, while they had... powerful fleets. The advantage which they possessed for... inflicting injury on our coasts and harbors was thus con-... siderably enhanced by the exposure of their... commerce to attack by privateers, vessels of the... confederacy, and by the fact that within a very few years... past the United States had peremptorily refused to accede... to proposals for abolishing privateering, on the ground... as alleged by them, that nations owning powerful fleets... would thereby obtain undue advantage over those pos-... sessing inferior naval forces. Yet no sooner was war... declared between the confederacy and the United States... than the maritime Powers of Europe issued orders pro-... hibiting either party from bringing prizes into their... ports. This prohibition, directed with apparent im-... partiality against both belligerents, was in reality effect-... ively against the Confederate States alone; for they alone could... find a hostile commerce on the ocean. Merely nominal... against the United States, the prohibition oper-... ated with intense severity on the confederacy... depriving it of the only means of... maintaining with some approach to equality its struggle... on the ocean against the crushing superiority of naval... force possessed by its enemies. The value and efficiency... of the weapon which was thus wrested from our grasp by... the combined action of neutral European Powers, private-... ers of a nation which professes openly its intention of rav-... aging their commerce by privateers in any future war... is strikingly illustrated by the terror in-... flicted among the commercial classes of the United... States by a single cruiser of the confederacy. One... national steamer, commanded by officers and manned... by a crew who are debased by the curse of neutral-... ity, from the opportunity of causing captured vessels to... be condemned in their favor at prize courts, has sufficed to double... the rates of marine insurance in Northern ports, and... to compel the evacuation of numbers of Northern vessels... in addition to the direct damage inflicted by captures... as such. How difficult, then, to overestimate the effects that... must have been produced by the hundreds of private... armed vessels that would have swept the seas in pursuit... of the commerce of our enemy if the means of pursuit... of their prizes had not been withheld by the action of... neutral Europe.

But it is especially in relation to the so-called blockade... of our coast that the policy of European Powers has been... so shaped as to cause the greatest injury to the confeder-... acy, and to confer signal advantages on the United... States. The importance of this change is readily illustrat-... ed by taking one of our ports as an example. There is... evident danger in entering the port of Wilmington from... the presence of a blockading force, and by this test the... blockade is effective. "Access is not really prevented" by... the blockading fleet to the same port, for steamers are... continually arriving and departing; so that, tried by this... test, the blockade is ineffective and invalid. The justice... of our complaint on this point is so manifest as to leave... little room for doubt that further reflection will induce... the British government to give us such assurances as... will efface the painful impressions that would result... from its language if left unexplained.

From the foregoing remarks you will perceive that... during nearly two years of struggle, in which every... energy of our country has been exerted for maintaining its... very existence, a vast neutral nation of Europe have pur-... sued a policy which, nominally impartial, has been prac-... tically most favorable to our enemies and most detri-... mental to us.

The exercise of the neutral right of refusing entry into... their ports to prizes taken by both belligerents was em-... phatically refused to the confederacy. It was sternly asserted... and maintained. The exercise of the neutral right of... commerce with a belligerent whose ports are not... blocked by a fleet sufficient really to prevent access to them would have been... manifestly hurtful to the United States. It was com-... placently abandoned. The duty of neutral States to re-... fuse with cordiality and recognition with respect any for-... mation that independent States may think proper to... furnish was clearly admitted of itself, but its pos-... session was obviously beneficial to the United States... and detrimental to the confederacy. It was conceded...

In this review of our relations with the neutral nations... of Europe, it has been my purpose to point out distinctly... that this government has no complaint to make that these... nations have not been impartial. The complaint is that the... neutrality has been too nominal and that the recognized... neutral rights have been alternately asserted and waived... to confer signal advantages on our enemy.